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Wherever the members of the Astronomische Gesellschaft may be, they have a common cause, and, in a sense, a common country.
E. S. H.

1896, October 8.

MT. HELENA VISIBLE FROM MT. HAMILTON.

Mt. Helena, 4343 feet high, is situated at the head of the Napa Valley, California. It is visible from Mt. Hamilton, at a distance of about 105 miles.

The highest (west) point of this mountain bears 30° 15′ west of true north from the Transit House of the Lick Observatory.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, October 31, 1896.

COMET *f* 1896 (PERRINE).

This comet was discovered about 10 P.M., November 2d, in the constellation *Vulpecula*. Its position at $19^h\ 13^m\ 3^s$ G. M. T., was R. A. $20^h\ 21^m\ 36^s.33$; Decl. $+\ 25^\circ\ 6'\ 39''.8$. Its motion was nearly 2^m west and 50′ south per day. From Mt. Hamilton observations of November 2d, 6th, and 11th, I have derived the following parabolic elements:

$$T = 1897 \text{ February } 8.15286 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{lrrr} \omega = & 172^\circ & 37' & 36'' \\ \text{☊} = & 86 & 28 & 00 \\ i = & 146 & 8 & 42 \end{array}\right\} 1896.0$$

$$q = 1.0571$$

Residuals: (O−C) $\Delta\lambda \cos\beta - 4''$; $\Delta\beta - 1''$.

The comet is faint, not being brighter than a star of 10½ or 11 magnitude, and has a stellar nucleus of about 13 magnitude. It has a well-marked central condensation, and is about 2′ in diameter. Its distance at discovery was about 140,000,000 miles, and is slowly increasing, the comet consequently growing fainter.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, November 16, 1896.

DECORATION FOR PROFESSOR HOLDEN.

The Director of the Lick Observatory has received the diploma and decoration of Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog, of Denmark, for services to science.